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August 10, 2006

United States Patent and Trademark Office
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Re: Country: USA
Application Number: 08/808,031
Filing Date : March 3, 1997
Applicant: SUMIKO INOUE ET AL.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a Final Rejection dated August 3, 2006, which was received in our offices with other papers in apparent error as this case is not one of ours. Therefore, I am returning it to you for redirection.

Very truly yours,

J. M. Neuman
Docket Supervisor

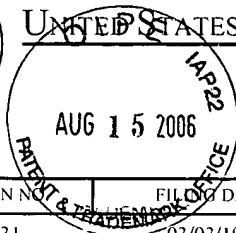
Jmn
Enclosure

AE
PHILADELPHIA OFFICE
One Liberty Place, 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.568.3100
Fax: 215.568.3439

J. M. NEUMAN
PHILADELPHIA OFFICE
215-564-8935
neuman@woodcock.com



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APPLICATION NO.	FILED DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/808,031	03/03/1997	SUMIKO INOUE	377.5888P	5819

35811 7590 08/03/2006

IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US LLP
1650 MARKET ST
SUITE 4900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

HUTSON, RICHARD G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1652

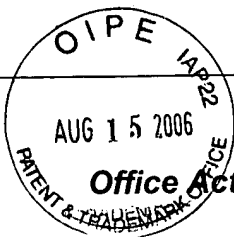
DATE MAILED: 08/03/2006

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AUG 07 2006

Woodcock Washburn

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Application No.**

08/808,031

Applicant(s)

INOUE ET AL.

Examiner

Richard G. Hutson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's amendment of the specification, sequence listing and amendment of claims 5 and 7, in the paper of 5/26/2006, is acknowledged. Claims 5 and 7 are still at issue and are present for examination.

Applicants' arguments filed on 5/26/2006, have been fully considered and are deemed to be persuasive to overcome some of the rejections previously applied. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The amendment filed 5/26/2006 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: SEQ ID NO: 54.

Applicants statement that "SEQ ID NO: 54 for the amino acid residues as indicated by the black dots in the consensus sequence" is acknowledged, however, this statement does not appear to be accurate. For instance, the last black dot listed in the consensus is a valine, however, applicants SEQ ID NO: 54 lists this position as a valine or an isoleucine. Similarly the third residue from the end is a leucine, wherein SEQ ID NO: 54 lists this position as isoleucine, leucine or valine.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 (claim 5 dependent on) is indefinite in that it is drawn to the bacterial reverse transcriptase (RT) comprising the amino acid residues as recited in SEQ ID NO: 54, "wherein said Xaa is any residue, Xaa₀ is any residue or no residue, Xaa₆ is Ala or Cys...and Xaa₁₇ is Val or Ile" The specific designations of the variable positions listed above is unclear and confusing in the context of SEQ ID NO: 54 as these do not exist in SEQ ID NO: 54.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

A similar rejection was made for previous claim 7. In response applicants have amended claims 5 and 7 and traverse the rejection as it applies to the newly amended claims.

Claim 7 is directed to all possible bacterial reverse transcriptases with the amino acid residues as recited in SEQ ID NO: 54 (See also above 112 second paragraph rejection). Claim 5 is directed to all possible bacterial reverse transcriptases with the amino acid sequence as recited in SEQ ID NOs: 53 (See also above 112 second paragraph rejection). The specification, however, only provides the representative species of SEQ ID Nos: 33 and 34 encompassed by these SEQ ID NO: 53 and 54. The specification also fails to describe additional representative species of these enzymes by any identifying structural characteristics or properties other than the activities recited in claims 5 and 7, for which no predictability of structure is apparent. Given this lack of additional representative species as encompassed by the claims, Applicants have failed to sufficiently describe the claimed invention, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms that a skilled artisan would recognize Applicants were in possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants submit in response to the previous rejection of claim 7 that applicants claim is directed to those bacterial reverse transcriptases having the consensus sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 54, which includes the highly conserved YXDD box and residues in 7 subdomains shown in Fig 14 and applicants have provided sequences from seven different bacterial species to demonstrate the subdomains structure and this information together with the disclosure provided on pages 16-23 of the specification

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clearly provides structure characteristics or properties other than activities recited in claim 7 to describe the invention.

Applicants complete argument is acknowledged and has been carefully considered, however, continues to be found nonpersuasive on the basis that the structure associated with SEQ ID Nos: 53 and 54, which are merely fragmented consensus sequences and do not in and by themselves possess the claimed function, are insufficient to describe the genus of those bacterial reverse transcriptases having such a function, (i.e. synthesizes msDNA and which is essential for the synthesis of msDNA *in vivo*).

Thus claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicant is referred to the revised guidelines concerning compliance with the written description requirement of U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, published in the Official Gazette and also available at www.uspto.gov.

Claims 5 and 7 are additionally rejected under this statute because as discussed above under the objection to applicants specification, the inserted sequence identifier, SEQ ID NO: 54, is not supported by the specification at the time of filing and is thus considered new matter.

Remarks

No claim is allowed.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

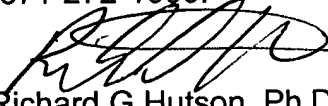
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard G. Hutson whose telephone number is 571-272-0930. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Richard G Hutson, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1652

rg
8/1/2006